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LETTER DATED 15 FEBRUARY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 15 February 1995 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the recent Iranian aggression against Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 15 February 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that after midnight on 11 February 1995 large-scale military forces of the Iranian regime carried out a wide-ranging offensive against our units in the Hawr al-Hawizah area of Iraq close to the Iraq-Iran boundary. The offensive, in which all types of light and medium weapons were used, continued until 13 February 1995, when the Iraqi forces succeeded in repelling it. A number of Iranians, members of the attacking force, were captured.

Questioning of prisoners indicated that one week prior to the offensive an Iranian division had moved from Dizful to the Shatt Ali area to the east of Hawr al-Hawizah and had concentrated there. Reconnaissance of Iraqi positions had also been carried out by the commanders of Iranian companies and battalions participating in the attack. An Iranian force had also carried out an exercise in the Shatt Ali area on occupying objectives by silent assault.

This Iranian attack constitutes patent aggression against Iraq, and it is a flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 598 (1987) and a violation of the norms of international law. It is not the first action of its kind, and there have previously been numerous acts of aggression against Iraq by Iran that have included the use of warplanes to bombard locations inside Iraqi territory. The Government of Iraq would like to call your attention to the fact that this fresh Iranian act of aggression would not have taken place had it not been for the arbitrary and unilateral decision of the United States to impose a ban on Iraqi aircraft south of the 32nd parallel. This prevents Iraq from using its aircraft even for purposes of reconnaissance with a view to ensuring the protection and defence of its sovereignty and security. In accordance with your responsibilities, particularly under the terms of resolution 598 (1987), we hope that you will take the necessary measures to prevent any recurrence of such aggression on the part of Iran. We further hope that you will bring pressure to bear on the Government of the United States to lift the unilateral ban on aircraft that it is maintaining in the north and south of the country so as to enable Iraq to exercise its legitimate right to defend its sovereignty, independence, security and territorial integrity in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

I should further like to call attention to the collusion that preceded this operation between circles that are well known to be clients of the rulers of Iran and Kuwaiti government officials. This aggression took place within a few days of the visit to Kuwait of the person known as Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, leader of the so-called "Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq", and of his meeting with the Amir, the Prime Minister and senior officials. This is to be regarded as open intervention by the Government of Kuwait in Iraq's internal affairs, as a shameless attempt to undermine the country's internal situation and as a flagrant violation of the norms of international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions.

In conclusion, I request you to have this letter brought to the attention of the Security Council and to have it circulated as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq